



## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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### July 2008 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

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#### National Center for Food Protection and Defense

##### **LLIS.gov Partners with the National Center for Food Protection and Defense**

As part of its continuing relationship with the Department of Homeland Security's Centers of Excellence (COE), *LLIS.gov* has partnered with the National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD) to develop a resource page that highlights the NCFPD's research and education program. The NCFPD was officially launched as a COE in July 2004. Developed as a multidisciplinary and action-oriented research consortium, NCFPD addresses the vulnerability of the nation's food system to attack through intentional contamination with biological or chemical agents. NCFPD takes a comprehensive, farm-to-table view of the food system, encompassing all aspects from primary production through transportation and food processing to retail and food service. To access the new NCFPD resource page, please log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [National Center for Food Protection and Defense](#) under *LLIS* PARTNERS.

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#### Wildland Fire Lessons Learned

##### **LLIS.gov Requests Wildland Fire Resources**

In the wake of the record-breaking 2007 wildland fire season, the "National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook" has forecasted significant fire potential for numerous areas across the country for the 2008 season. Already, ongoing wildland fires in northern California have highlighted the need for continued preparedness efforts to respond to these disasters. *LLIS.gov*, in partnership with the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, developed the [Wildland Fires Lessons Learned Resource Page](#), to highlight our collection of wildland fire after-action reports, season outlooks, preparedness guidance, and documents.

*LLIS.gov* is interested in adding to this collection of resources and documents. To do this, *LLIS.gov* is asking for member feedback on which topic areas of interest, innovative ideas, or lessons learned should be featured. Please submit all suggestions and comments to [wildlandfire@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:wildlandfire@llis.dhs.gov). We encourage you to visit the *LLIS.gov* [Wildland Fires Lessons Learned Resource Page](#) to see what information is already available. To access the page, please log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [Wildland Fires](#) under FEATURED TOPICS.

In addition, the U.S. Fire Administration will be hosting a conference on wildland fires. Please submit any topic ideas or panels you would be interested in attending to [wildlandfire@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:wildlandfire@llis.dhs.gov).

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## Hurricane Preparedness Resources

### ***LLIS.gov* Resources on Hurricane Preparedness**

*LLIS.gov* strives to provide relevant and timely resources and information that assist emergency response professionals and homeland security officials prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including natural disasters. In the wake of Hurricane Dolly, *LLIS.gov* would like to highlight the [Hurricane Preparedness Resource Page](#), which contains key planning guidance and other information on a variety of issues related to hurricane preparedness including evacuation and sheltering, disabilities and functional needs, health and medical needs, and public information. It is intended to provide planners and practitioners with myriad resources to aid them in hurricane preparedness planning. To access the page, please log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [Hurricane Preparedness](#) under FEATURED TOPICS.

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## New Original Content

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned, Best Practices, Practice Notes, and Good Stories to the system on a regular basis. Weekly updates about new original content can be found in the NEW *LLIS* CONTENT box on the homepage of *LLIS.gov*. *LLIS.gov* recently posted the following original content documents:

### *Lessons Learned*

- **[Campus Safety: Enabling Campus Police to Send Emergency Messages to the Campus Community](#)** (*Virginia Tech Shooting, 2007*)  
Campus police as well as administration officials should have the authority and capability to send an emergency message to their campus community.
- **[Campus Safety: Joint Training for Campus Security and Local Law Enforcement Personnel](#)** (*Virginia Tech Shooting, 2007*)  
Campus police forces should conduct joint training with local police departments for responses to active shooters and other emergencies.
- **[Emergency Communications: Providing Mobile Command Posts for Animal Services Responders](#)** (*San Diego County Wildland Fire, 2007*)  
Jurisdictions should consider providing mobile command posts for animal services personnel. A mobile command post would provide the resources needed to support animal rescue, communications, and evacuation operations.
- **[Emergency Communications: Utilizing All-Hazards Radios for Disseminating Public Information](#)** (*Springfield-Greene County Ice Storm, 2007*)  
Emergency managers should consider conducting programs to educate the public on the importance of battery-powered devices and weather radios during disasters and emergencies. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration all-hazards radios can be used to disseminate public information during power outages.
- **[Emergency Operations Centers: Ensuring Sufficient Network Capabilities](#)** (*Springfield-Greene County Ice Storm, 2007*)  
Emergency managers should ensure that their emergency operations centers have sufficient network capabilities to support all essential functions during a disaster or other incident.
- **[Incident Command: Locating the Incident Command Post](#)** (*Rhode Island Night Club Fire, 2003*)  
Incident command posts should be located close enough to allow the incident commander to observe operations but far enough away to provide safety and shelter from the noise and confusion that accompanies normal operations. A command vehicle is often ideally suited for this purpose.
- **[Incident Management: Incorporating and Utilizing a Demobilization Plan](#)** (*San Diego*

*Wildland Fire, 2003)*

Incident commanders should incorporate and utilize a demobilization plan for all state or federal reimbursable incidents. The demobilization process, although mundane in its appearance, is a crucial component of incident management.

- **Incident Site Management: Ensuring Effective Transfer of Command between Operational Periods** (*Ardent Sentry Exercise, 2007*)

Incident Management Team (IMT) members should arrive at an incident site at least 1 hour prior to the start of a new operational period. This allows for an appropriate transfer of command with the outgoing team, the distribution of Incident Action Plans (IAP), and time for the incoming IMT to brief responders.

- **Incident Site Management: Maintaining a Supply of Raid Jackets to Identify Law Enforcement Officers** (*Rhode Island Night Club Fire, 2003*)

Law enforcement agencies should maintain a ready supply of raid-style jackets that can be issued at incident sites to identify the wearer as a law enforcement officer. The ability to easily identify law enforcement personnel at an incident site is vital to security and overall incident site management.

- **Information Sharing: Providing Real-Time Utilities Information to Emergency Operations Centers** (*Springfield-Greene County Ice Storm, 2007*)

Emergency managers should develop information sharing procedures, tools, and technology to deliver real-time utilities information to their emergency operations centers (EOC). This will enhance the EOC staff's ability to accurately assess the status of utilities and to deploy resources for their optimal usage.

- **Joint Information Centers: Establishing a Media Monitoring Position** (*San Diego County Wildland Fire, 2007*)

Joint Information Centers should consider establishing a media monitoring position to address media inaccuracies that occur during incidents. Dedicating one person to this task will result in a comprehensive, thorough review of reports issued by news media outlets.

- **Mortuary Services: Equipping Vehicles with Two-Way Radios and Computers** (*Rhode Island Night Club Fire, 2003*)

Medical examiner offices should consider equipping their response vehicles with two-way radios and computers to facilitate integrated communications with response agencies, healthcare facilities, and emergency management agencies during mass casualty incidents.

- **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning: Examining Triage Alternatives to Minimize Surge** (*Pandemic Influenza External Tabletop Exercise, 2007*)

Pandemic influenza planning efforts should examine triage alternatives to attempt to minimize surge and emergency medical services wait times after delivering patients to healthcare facilities.

- **Public Health Emergency Planning: Regional Planning for a Surge in Mental Health Cases** (*Pandemic Influenza External Tabletop Exercise, 2007*)

Public health departments should consider developing a regional plan to support a surge in mental health cases that may require hospitalization or admission to a mental health facility during a pandemic influenza outbreak. This could include the creation of a list that identifies all available in-patient psychiatric facilities and out-patient mental health clinics in their area.

- **Special Event Planning: Utilizing Geographic Information Systems to Map the Event's Boundaries** (*Tacoma Narrows Bridge Grand Opening, 2007*)

Special event planners should consider utilizing Geographic Information Systems during the early planning stages of special events to map the event's boundaries.

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## ***LLIS.gov Outreach***

The *LLIS.gov* Outreach and Partnerships Team sends representatives throughout the country to speak about and represent *LLIS.gov* at various events and conferences. *LLIS.gov* representatives will attend and/or speak at the following upcoming event:

- **30-31 July: Fusion Centers and Information Sharing Conference (Washington, DC)**
- **04 August: Governor's Campus Preparedness Conference (Richmond, VA)**
- **12-13 August: Enforcement Expo (Columbus, OH)**
- **14-16 August: Fire Rescue International (Denver, CO)**
- **11-12 September: DNI Open Source Conference 2008 (Washington, DC)**
- **17-19 September: Kansas Emergency Management Association Emergency Conference (Topeka, KS)**
- **29-31 October: 10th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Exposition (Chicago, IL)**

Feel free to drop by our exhibit or speak to our representatives and share your comments and questions about *LLIS.gov*. Please contact the *LLIS.gov* Outreach Team at [outreach@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:outreach@llis.dhs.gov) if you have a conference or event at which you would like the *LLIS.gov* team to speak or exhibit.

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